



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, February 2, 2012**

**Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park  
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** James Heitel, Chairman  
Fred Klein, Vice Chairman  
Susan Wheeler, Commissioner  
Rand Hubbell, Commissioner  
Marg Nelssen, Commissioner  
Robert Frost, Commissioner  
Con Englehorn, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Bill Murphy  
Kroy Ekblaw  
Claire Miller  
Robbin Schweitzer  
Scott Hamilton

**GUESTS:** David Hay

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Heitel called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public wished to speak.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of January 12, 2012

Commissioner Frost noted that he had attended this meeting before becoming a Commissioner.

**VICE-CHAIRMAN KLEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 12, 2012 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBELL, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

**5. COMMISSION BYLAWS**

Mr. Murphy distributed a redline version of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission bylaws and noted that the City is in the process of finalizing the boards and commissions bylaws template. Discussion ensued regarding public speaking time limits; restrictions on the formation of committees, subcommittees, and task forces; and the restrictions imposed by the requirement to hold meetings in proximity to public transportation. Staff will redraft the bylaws based on the discussion and present them for approval to the March meeting.

**6. FLORA SIGNAGE**

Vice-Chairman Klein reiterated his suggestion for flora signage for educational purposes in areas of the Preserve that do not have an interpretive trail. He presented a list of suggested plants and cacti for signing.

Staff presented sample signage that is currently used, noting various options are available. The Commission discussed the type of signage that would be appropriate, what type of information should be included on the signs, appropriate locations for signage, potential vandalism, and cost and funding options.

**VICE-CHAIRMAN KLEIN MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A FLORA SIGNAGE PROGRAM. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NELSEN, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).**

**7. PROCESS OF SURVEY OF VOTERS FOR FUTURE FUNDING OPTIONS**

Mr. Ekblaw distributed information on a recent Bond Task Force survey recommendation that was denied by City Council because of a concern that it would be perceived as using public dollars to influence a taxing question. He noted that a work-study session is tentatively scheduled for March 27, 2012 during which the Bond Task Force will make a presentation and possibly the Desert Discovery Center recommendations will be presented. He suggested that the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission could take

the opportunity to get Council feedback and make refinements before forwarding the final request.

Commissioners discussed pros and cons of conducting a public survey before moving forward with a bond request and tactics for achieving a favorable result.

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the limitations on the City once Council approves a bond election. A separate group of individual citizens would need to be formed to campaign for the bond election; the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy and/or individual Commissioners representing themselves as citizens would be permitted to participate.

## **8. STAFF REPORTS**

- Desert Discovery Center Phase III Committee

Mr. Ekblaw gave an update on the DDC activities. He reviewed the Committee's anticipated recommendations, including Ordinance amendments pertaining to the location, recommending lowering the attendance projections, that a minimum of funding come from private sources, and RFP/operator recommendations. The Committee is expected to complete their final report within the next two weeks, which will be brought to the March MSPC meeting for a final presentation in March and is expected to recommend not putting the project out for bond and, instead, conducting an annual review until such a time as the economy is likely to support the project.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions.

- Financial Report

Mr. Ekblaw distributed the financial report, noting that the bond sale was a success and got a 2.7 % interest rate, which saves \$100,000 in interest costs.

- Land Acquisition

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the progress of land acquisition, noting that the environmental phase one assessment and the cost of development and development ability surveys are under way. The City is still working with the State Land Department on the rezoning request, which is consistent with the General Plan, and alternative approaches are available if the rezoning does not go through. He discussed the three land acquisition applications and strategy.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions.

- North Area Planning

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the work plan that was established a couple of years ago indicating areas that are completed, those in progress, and those that are upcoming noting that a summary of the key elements of projects in the Preserve are listed on the back of the update.

Mr. Hamilton discussed the conceptual trail plan update. He noted that the main goal for trailhead improvements is to encourage users to utilize trailheads other than Brown's Ranch.

- Current Projects Update

Ms. Miller reviewed access control measures, which include signage restoration, education, and enforcement.

Mr. Ekblaw noted that progress is being made on the SLUP. The meeting has been rescheduled and the request to remove the 300 acres at the corner of Dynamite and Pima as been removed. The State Land Department is revising the document and it is hoped that the item will be scheduled for City Council in April.

## **9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Englehorn expressed concern about the House Bill proposed to sweep Growing Smarter Funds. Discussion ensued regarding the concerns and how a sweep would affect land acquisition.

Mr. Ekblaw noted that former Chairman Myers' presentation to Council is now scheduled for March 22.

Commissioner Wheeler suggested that Channel 11 be encouraged to program more shows about the Preserve.

## **10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR MARCH 1, 2012**

- Special Uses

In addition to special uses the March agenda will include discussions on special uses, the DDC presentation, the bylaws, and House Bill 233.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.